

REMARKS

Claims 17 – 23 are pending in this application. Claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 have previously been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 17 is currently amended. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. In view of the following amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Claim Objection:

The Examiner objected to Claim 17 stating that one of its limitations lacked an antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 17 to remedy the lack of antecedent basis issue.

Rejection of Claims 17 – 18 Under U.S.C. §102:

Claims 17 – 18 were rejected under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,456,336 (the “’336 patent”) to Chung et al. Applicants have amended claim 17 and submit that this claim and dependent claim 18 overcome the rejection.

The present invention is directed towards a reflector that can be suitably used for a reflection type liquid crystal display device that uses ambient light as a light source. The present invention comprises a reflector having a plurality of light reflective portions arranged randomly adjacent to each other on a surface of a base material. Each of the light reflective portions is formed so that an inclination angle is maximum on one side of the reflective portion's surface. Moreover, the one side of the light reflective portion having the maximum inclination angle for each of the light reflective portions is on the same side.

The '336 patent is directed towards a reflector for use in liquid crystal displays. The reflector consists of a glass plate which has concaved shaped cavities on at least one major surface. Col. 2, lines 56 – 59; Col. 5, line 68 – Col. 6, line 1. A highly reflective layer is deposited upon this surface of the substrate. Col. 3, lines 1 – 3. Additionally, a light transparent low index of refraction layer is in optical contact with the reflective layer. Col. 3, lines 9 – 11. In operation, the reflective surface can provide

reflection brightness three times greater than a diffuse surface up to 40 degree viewing angle.

In order for a reference to act as a §102 bar to patentability, the reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Without the required teaching of each and every element as set forth in the claims, it is improper for the Examiner to continue such rejections under §102(b).

Claim 17 has been amended to recite a limitation that for each of the light reflective portions, the side of the light reflective portion that contains the maximum inclination angle is on the same side. This limitation is not present in the structure described in the '336 patent. To the contrary, in FIGS. 1A and 1B of the '336 patent, the cavities are illustrated such that each cavity does not have its maximum inclination angle on the same side. As illustrated, some of the cavities have a maximum inclination angle on one side (e.g., the right side) of a cavity while other cavities have a maximum inclination angle on a second side (e.g., the left side) of a cavity. Moreover, the '336 patent fails to suggest that for each cavity the maximum inclination angles are on the same side. Accordingly, the present invention recites structure not disclosed in the '336 patent.

For at least the above reason, the Applicants believe this amendment places claim 17 in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration of this claim. Claim 18 depends from claim 17, and therefore likewise includes the amended limitation. For at least the above reason, Applicants believe that claim 18 is patentable over the prior art and respectfully request reconsideration of this claim.

Rejection of Claims 17 and 21 Under U.S.C. §103:

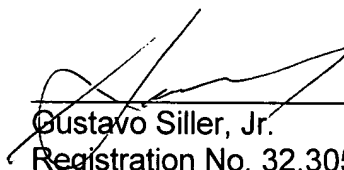
Claims 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,130,736 (the "'736 patent") to Sasaki et al. in view of the '336 patent to Chung et al. For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 17 overcomes the Examiner's rejection for both claim 17 and its dependent claim 21. As the Examiner acknowledges, the '736 patent does not teach the structure of the reflector recited in claim 17. As previously discussed, the '336 patent also fails to disclose or teach the structure recited in claim 17. Accordingly, since

the combination of references does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 17, it is improper for the Examiner to continue such rejections under §103(a). Likewise, because claim 21 depends from claim 17 it includes the structure of claim 17, which is not disclosed or suggested by the combination of the '336 patent and the '736 patent. It is Applicants' belief that claim 17 and claim 21, being dependent on claim 17, are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request the removal of the §103(a) rejection for these claims.

SUMMARY

Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 17 – 23 remain pending. In view of the amendment and for at least the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, the Examiner believes that the amendment and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4200 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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